

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03034 011753Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02

ACDA-07 /065 W

-----027325 020331Z /62

R 011721Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7072

INFO CINCSOUTH

DOD

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

CONFIDENTIAL TEGUCIGALPA 3034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, OAS, ES, HO

SUBJECT: RETENTION OF HELICOPTERS FOR OAS

1. OVER THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS (GOH) (INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER ROBERTO PALMA GALVEZ, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER POLICARPO CALLEJAS AND CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, BRIG. GENERAL MARIO CHINCHILLA) HAVE EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR BECKER STRONG CONCERN THAT U.S. ARMY HELICOPTERS CONTINUE TO BE SUPPLIED TO THE OAS OBSERVER TEAMS. THE GOH HAS HEARD RUMORS THAT THE U.S. HELICOPTERS MAY BE PULLED OUT ON 15 JULY 1977. THE GOH FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT THE OAS OBSERVERS TEAMS ARE VITAL TO CONTINUED PEACE IN THE DISPUTED BORDER AREAS. THE GOH POSITION IS THAT WITHOUT THE OAS TEAMS THE CIVILIAN POPULATION ON BOTH SIDES WILL DRIFT BACK INTO THE POCKETS TO FARM THE LAND. WITH THEM WILL COME THE TROOPS OF BOTH SIDES AND INCIDENTS WILL BE BOUND TO OCCUR. THESE INCIDENTS COULD EASILY ESCALATE, GIVEN THE STATE OF PREPAREDNESS ON BOTH SIDES, OR BE OF SUFFICIENT MAGNITUDE TO SPARK ANOTHER ARMED CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES (WHICH WOULD BE AGAINST THEIR BEST INTEREST AND WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S. POLICY INTERESTS). THE OAS OBSERVERS CANNOT FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT HELICOPTER SUPPORT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03034 011753Z

THUS THE GOH CONCERN THAT THE U.S. HELICOPTERS NOT BE WITHDRAWN. IF THEY ARE WITHDRAWN, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR A REQUEST FROM HONDURAS TO TAKE A MORE DIRECT ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CALLEJAS ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR BECKER THAT DURING THE OAS CONFERENCE IN GRENADA, HE (CALLEJAS) HAD TALKED

WITH SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OAS PEACE KEEPING MISSION. ALL AGREED THAT THE OAS OBSERVERS SHOULD BE KEPT IN THE DISPUTED AREAS AND THAT THE U.S. HELICOPTERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPLY TRANSPORTATION FOR THE TAMS.

3. THE GOH IS WAITING FOR THE INAUGURATION OF GENERAL CARLOS ROMERO IN EL SALVADOR TO SEE IF ANY FORWARD MOVEMENT WILL BE MADE ON THE LONG DELAYED MEDIATION AGREEMENT. THERE IS NOT MUCH OPTIMISM BECAUSE THE GENERAL THINKING IS THAT ROMERO WILL BE CONCERNED WITH INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF A SERIOUS NATURE AND WILL GIVE PRIORITY OVER SOLUTIONS TO DOMESTIC MATTERS. ROMERO WILL NOT BE OVERLY CONCERNED WITH BORDER SOLUTIONS UNLESS THERE IS ANOTHER FLARE UP.

4. THE COUNTRY TEAM IN HONDURAS SUPPORTS THE VIEW THAT THE OAS OBSERVERS TEAMS ARE CRITICAL AND ESSENTIAL TO CONTINUE THE STATUS QUO WHICH IS STABILIZED AND PREVENT BORDER INCIDENTS THAT WOULD LEAD TO MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. IT ALSO SUPPORTS THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S. HELICOPTERS TO SUPPORT THE OAS TEAMS.

BECKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DISPUTES, HELICOPTERS, PEACE OBSERVATION MISSIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEGUCI03034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770236-0661
Format: TEL
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770796/aaaadfpd.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1fe3f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1978743
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETENTION OF HELICOPTERS FOR OAS
TAGS: MASS, PBOR, ES, HO, US, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1fe3f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009